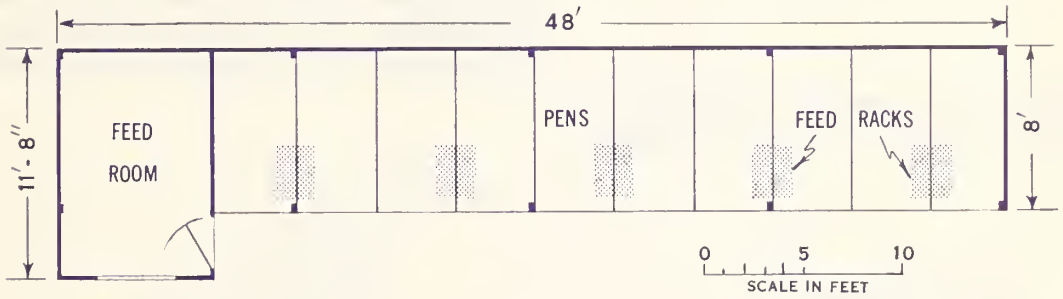
CALF BARN
open front pen type

COOPERATIVE FARM BUILDING PLAN EXCHANGE

Plan No. 5970
(2 - SHEETS)



Leading dairymen replace the poor milkers in their herds with well-bred, home raised heifers with greater production capability. These prize animals need care and attention when they are young because no dairyman can afford to lose his best replacement stock from scours or disease.

Steps in calf care consist of:

- Prompt attention at birth to be sure the calf breathes, is dried, and is kept free from chilling drafts. Disinfect the naval with tincture of iodine.
- Remove calf from the mother within 24 hours to prevent overfeeding and consequent scours. Take calf to a separate building.
- Keep calf in dry, draft-free, well-ventilated quarters.
- Follow a good program of feeding. Feed calf whole milk for 3 to 4 weeks. Do not overfeed. Five to 8 pounds of milk heated to 90° to 100° F. and divided into three separate feedings is enough for 1 day at the start. Train the calf to eat concentrates and high protein hay.

At the age of about 3 months, the calf's rations should be regulated to prevent overconsumption of concentrates and consequent underconsumption of hay.

The calf barn shown above serves well in moderate climate. In areas having a cold climate, dairymen may wish to build a room like the feed room for small calves. Calves can be placed in this insulated and fan-ventilated room when they are 1 day old and moved to the open front shed when they are about 6 weeks old.

In planning calf space, provide at least 1 to 1½ space units for calves less than 6 weeks old (an individual pen) and 2 to 2¼ space units for calves 6 weeks to 10 months of age for every 10 milking cows in the herd. The 4-foot by 8-foot pens shown in the drawing above will accommodate 2 calves; consequently, the building shown is sized for a herd of 50 to 60 milking cows.

Pen fronts and most partitions are removable so the barn can be easily cleaned. The partitions are solid to prevent drafts.

Use of water buckets is indicated in the working drawings, but if desired, automatic drinking cups could

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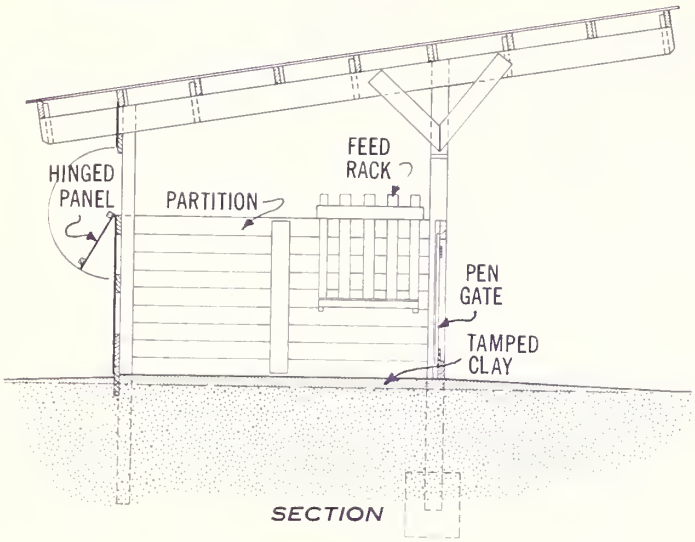
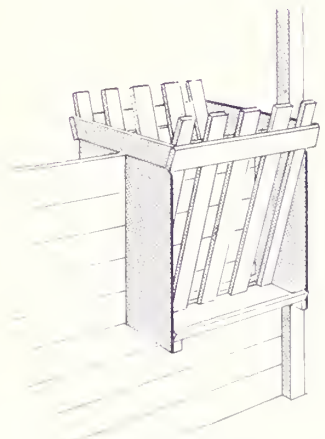
be installed along the rear wall.

The main frame is built from squared pressure treated posts that carry double rafters, which support the purlins. The front posts must be anchored in concrete to prevent wind pressure on the large shed-type overhang from lifting the posts during a severe storm.



SECTION

The hinged panels on the back of the shed may be opened during hot summer days to provide ventilation.

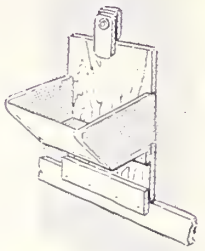


FEED RACK

Calves should have a leafy, fine-stemmed, green legume hay as soon as they will eat it. Green-colored legume hays—alfalfa, clover, or lespedeza—supply necessary vitamins, protein, and calcium. Cowpea, soybean, or peanut hays of good quality are better than timothy or other grass hays.

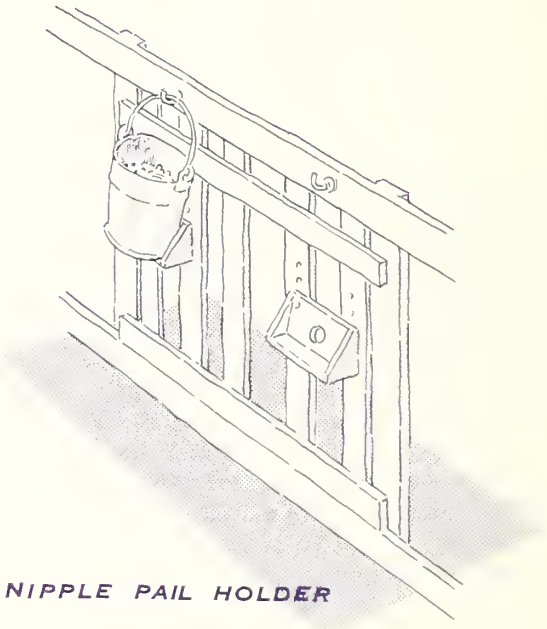
The slatted feed rack drops over the partition and serves two pens. Racks should be cleaned and supplied with fresh hay every day. Leftover hay should be removed from the racks and fed to the older stock.

Concentrates may be fed in the lower part of the hay rack. Some managers may prefer to feed calves grain out of a separate box. If so, a box like the one shown can be mounted on the pen wall.



GRAIN BOX

A calf's instinctive urge to punch while feeding from a nipple bucket makes it advisable to place the milk bucket outside the pen with the nipple protruding inside the calf's pen. This arrangement prolongs the life of the bucket and tends to keep the calf from spilling milk.



NIPPLE PAIL HOLDER

Complete working drawings may be obtained from the extension agricultural engineer at your State university. There may be a small charge to cover cost of printing and mailing.

If you do not know the location of your State university, send your request to Agricultural Engineer, Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. He will forward your request to the correct university.

ORDER PLAN NO. 5970, CALF BARN

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